

Appln. No. 09,502,696  
Amendment dated November 8, 2004

**Amendments to the Specification (Abstract):**

Please replace the Abstract with the following paragraph:

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A transponder includes a memory, the memory having a data region and a status byte region. A clock generator receives a program signal and outputs a data latch signal. An address module receives the address latch signal and addresses predetermined addresses in the memory. A program control reads the status byte from the memory and outputs a program enable signal in response thereto causing the clock generator to output the address latch in response to the program enable signal. The memory may further include a user lock region, where in the data stores characters therein and the user lock having a plurality of bits, each bit corresponding to a respective character. A lock status being stored in each bit of the user lock region to indicate whether the corresponding character may be reprogrammed. ~~The program control causes current to be provided to the memory, when the address module addresses the memory and the data module is either receiving data from or inputting data to the memory.~~